

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05804 171409Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08  
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 NEAE-00 HA-05 /090 W  
-----121275 171420Z /45

P R 171350Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2188  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/DSAA//  
CDRUSASAC ALEX VA/DRSAC-MM/LA//  
DA WASHDC/DALO-SAC//  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ4/7-SACM//

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5804

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, TS  
SUBJ: TOW MISSILE SYSTEM-RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

REF: DSAA MSG 270605Z JUL 78

1. ARTICLE IN 6 JULY ISSUE OF PARIS BASED PUBLICATION "DEFENSE ET DIPLOMATIE" REVEALED DETAILS OF PROPOSED GOT PURCHASE FROM U.S. OF TOW MISSILE SYSTEM (FMS CASE UCA), INCLUDING NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS AND MISSILES. ARTICLE APPEARED FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED OFFER OF SALE OF TOW SYSTEM TO GOT.

2. USLOT ASKED BY TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HOW DETAILS OF CASE WERE PUBLICIZED, AS REQUEST FOR PURCHASE AND SPECIFICS OF CASE HAD BEEN CLASSIFIED SECRET BY GOT. IN RESPONSE TO USLOT QUERY ON U.S. POLICY REGARDING DECLASSIFICATION OF FMS CASES, DSAA CITED IN REFTEL PROVISIONS OF SECTION 36(B) OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT, ADVISING THAT NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS ARE UNCLASSIFIED UNLESS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE CLEARLY DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. SECURITY.

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3. DSAA REPLY FORWARDED TO TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HOWEVER, CHEF DE CABINET AND CHIEF OF MILITARY SECURITY, GENERAL BALMA, CONTINUING TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT U.S. NOT HONORING GOT REQUEST FOR MAINTAINING CLASSIFICATION OF GOT REQUESTS FOR ARMS PURCHASES.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS SITUATION IF DEPARTMENT COULD  
PROVIDE US WITH A FULLER STATEMENT ON POLICY OF DECLASSIFYING  
WNTENDED OFFERS OF SALE AT TIME OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.  
IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD CONFIRM WHAT  
WE ASSUME TO BE THE CASE, THAT TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR AND  
MILITARY ATTACHE WELL AWARE OF PROCEDURES.

5. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION WE SUSPECT THAT TUNISIAN  
CONCERN ORIGINATE WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE FARHAT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MISSILES, MILITARY SALES, CLASSIFIED INFORMATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TUNIS05804  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014